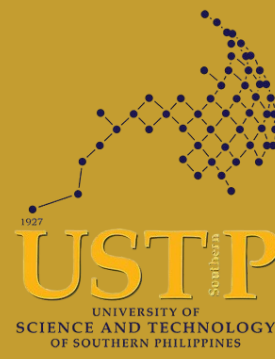




LifePulse

Social and Economic Determinants of Birth Rates in 2023: A Cross-Country Analysis

Linear Regression Analysis of Social and Economic Determinants



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Abstract

In 2023, cross-country differences in birth rates are mainly driven by demographic factors: maternal age, age dependency, child mortality, and crude death rates. Economic indicators like GDP per capita and government spending have no independent effect once social factors are considered. These results suggest that fertility policies should prioritise long-term demographic strategies.

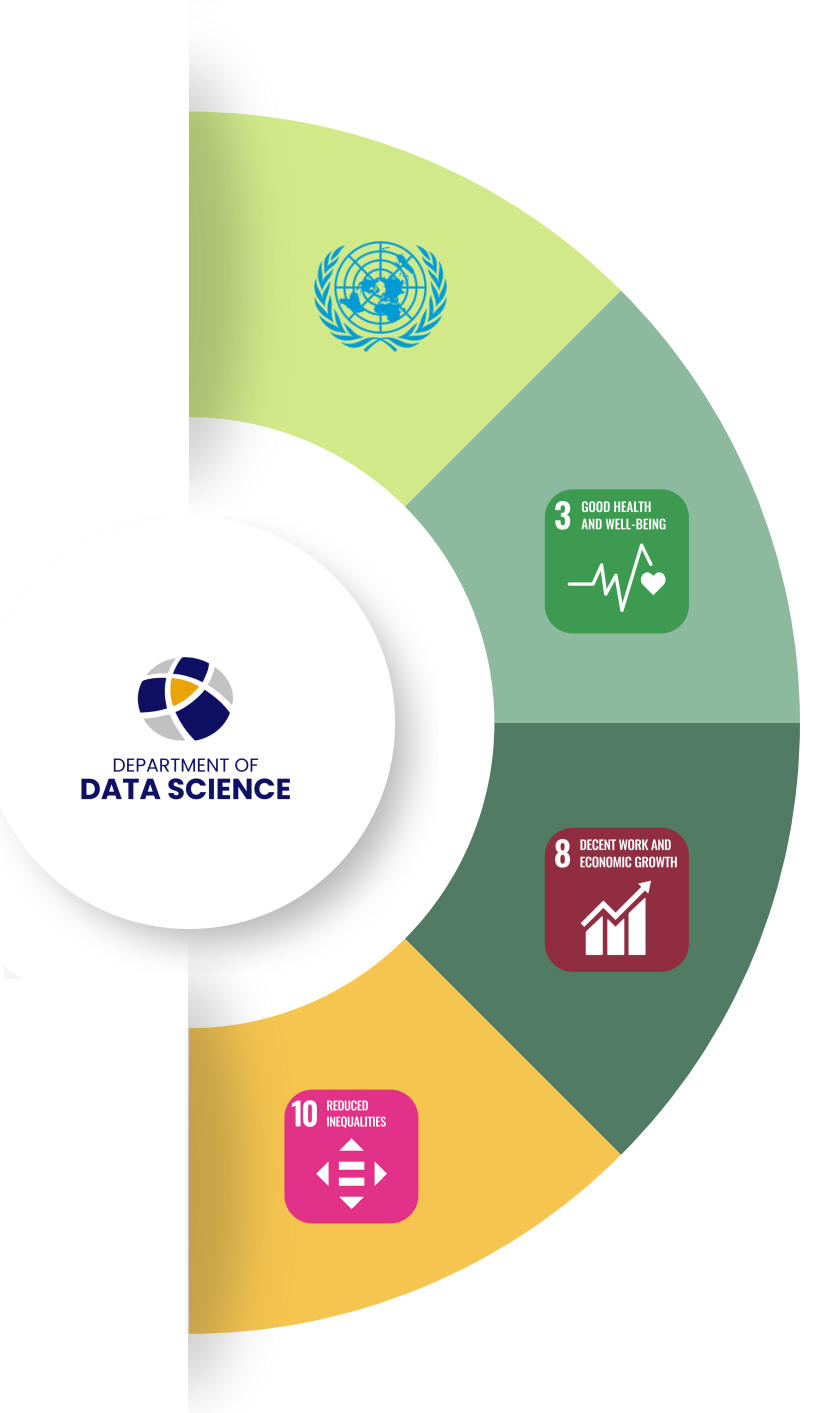
Research Problem

“What drives the rise and fall of birth rates in 2023?”

Despite global attention on fertility, birth rates vary widely due to social factors: maternal age, age dependency, child mortality; and economic factors: GDP growth, government revenue, and spending. Understanding their interaction is key to policies supporting population growth, maternal and child health (SDG 3), economic stability (SDG 8), and reduced inequalities (SDG 10).

Dataset and Regression Approach

YEAR: 2023
SAMPLE: 65 COUNTRIES
SOURCE: OUR WORLD IN DATA (OWID)
(AGGREGATES WORLD BANK, IMF, PENN WORLD TABLE)



Dependent Variable

Crude Birth Rate (CBR) – births per 1,000 population

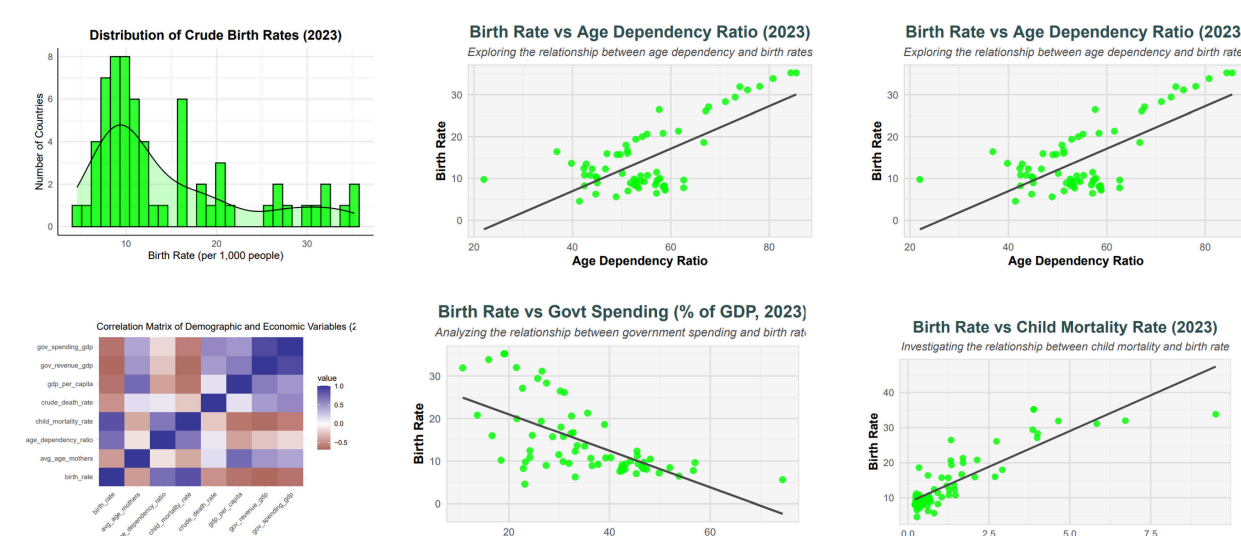
Social / Demographic Factors

- Average age of mothers
- Age dependency ratio – dependents per working-age population
- Child mortality rate – deaths per 1,000 under-5 children
- Crude death rate – deaths per 1,000 population

Economic / Fiscal Factors

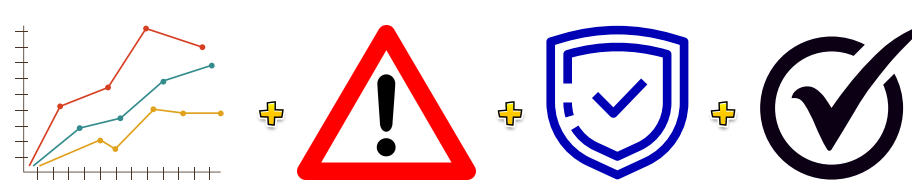
- GDP per capita – current US\$ per person
- Government revenue (% of GDP)
- Government consumption spending (% of GDP)

Linear Regression Models



Robustness

- Scale-location plots → heteroskedasticity detected visually
- Low test power – Breusch–Pagan $p = 0.170$
- Heteroskedasticity-robust standard errors (HC1) applied
- Ensures valid statistical inference



Econometric Model: Log-linear OLS regression

- $\ln(\text{BirthRate}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1(\text{AvgAgeMothers}) + \beta_2(\text{AgeDependency}) + \beta_3 \ln(\text{ChildMortality}) + \beta_4(\text{CrudeDeathRate}) + \beta_5 \ln(\text{GDPpc}) + \beta_6(\text{FiscalVars}) + \varepsilon$

Conclusion

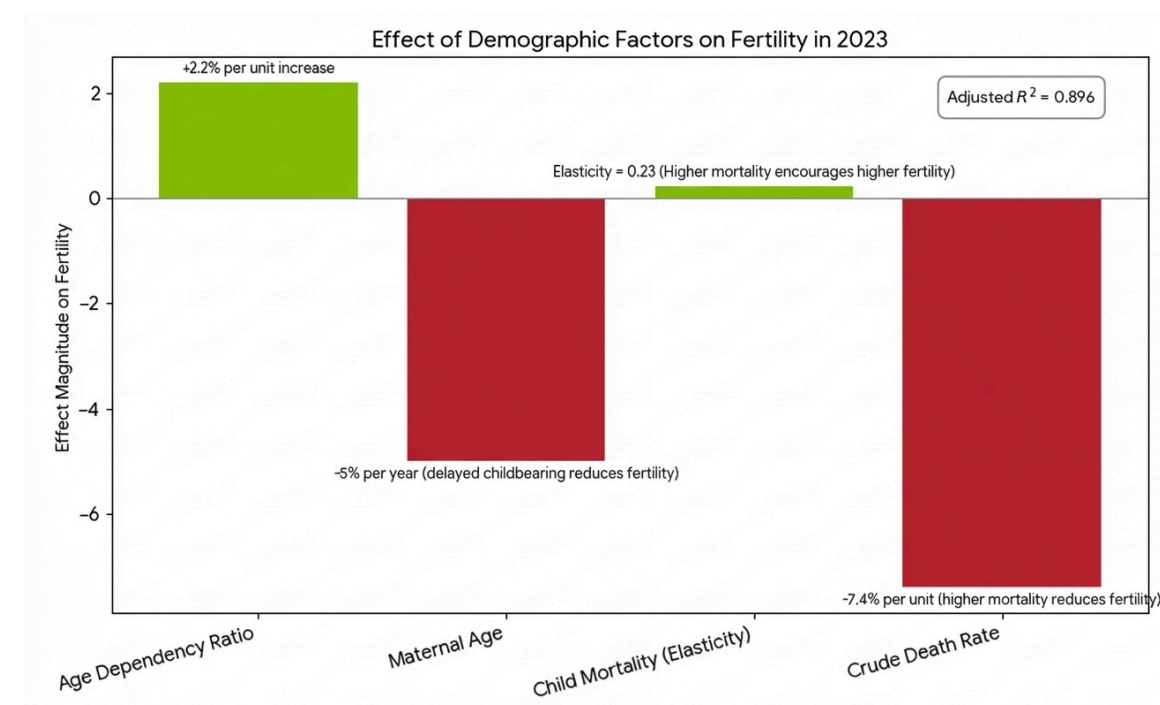
Fertility differences in 2023 were driven mainly by demographic structure and mortality rather than fiscal measures, highlighting the need for long-term policies that improve child survival, support work-life balance, and adapt to ageing populations.



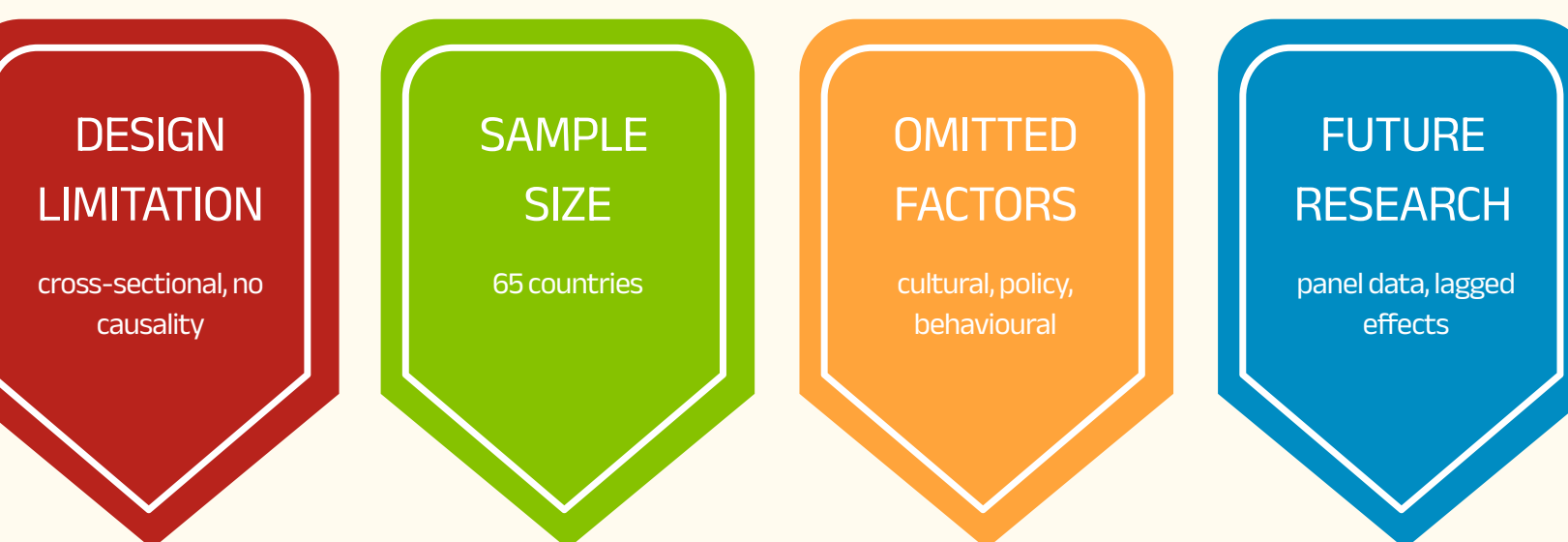
Key Findings

Fertility differences in 2023 are driven mainly by demographic structure and mortality rather than economic conditions.

- Higher age dependency increases birth rates
- Delayed childbearing and higher death rates reduce fertility
- Child mortality is positively linked to fertility
- Economic and fiscal effects are insignificant
- Model explains ~90% of fertility variation (Adjusted $R^2 = 0.896$)



Limitations and Future Directions

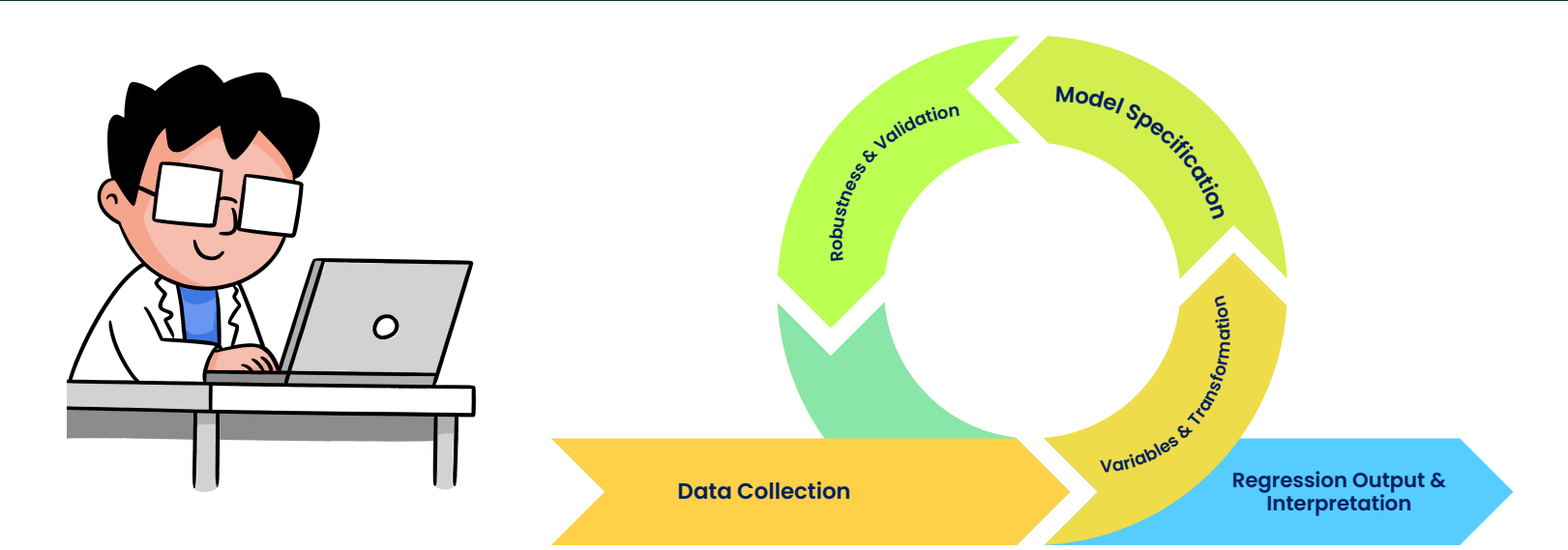


Implications

Fertility policy should prioritise demographic and health structures over short-term fiscal measures.

- Focus on child survival, work-life balance, and ageing adaptation
- Fiscal expansion alone has limited short-term impact on fertility

Project Development Cycle



“LifePulse: The Heartbeat of Global Fertility”

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